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REPORTAGE ON NINTH OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ortila Comments on Reelection

PY250133 Paris AFP in Spanish 1649 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Oct (AFP)--Argentina's Alejandro Orfila, reelected today as OAS secretary general, for the first time answered criticism that he is the representative of a dictatorial regime, claiming to be a confirmed democrat and reaffirming that democracy "is a vital idea for the American man."

His rival, the Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez, viewed his defeat as "another battle lost by the true Latin American democracies."

Orfila, who kept totally silent during the preelectoral campaign in the belief that it would be "awkward" to answer criticisms or discuss his chances, said today that he accepted the vote of confidence "with great humility."

He stated that he was aware that the OAS is undergoing changes but indicated that the general secretary will be unable to do anything if the member states fail to provide him with the appropriate guidelines and the necessary political and economic support.

He stressed the validity of the proposals made here by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano concerning the significance of subregional organizations as the source of dialog and political concensus, and indicated that ideological pluralism is a basic principle of the inter-American system.

"I would like to make it clear," he stressed, "that I am an American and that, being an American, I believe in democracy. Democracy is a vital idea for all Americans."

"I understand," he added, "that sometimes special circumstances in certain countries prevent democracy from being exercised fully, but I am absolutely sure that in the mind of every American democracy is the prevailing idea."

Orfila defended the performance of the General Secretariat during the term which is ending now and stated that it had experienced an increase in its effectiveness and prestige even though significant personnel reductions had taken place.

He warned, however, that broad budgetary reforms will be necessary in order to improve the operation of the various OAS bodies even further and that this assembly has the power to implement them.

The defeated candidate, the Dominican Ramon Emilio Jimenez, stated that both his government and he himself would provide the OAS secretary general "with all the support he may require for the better fulfillment of his tasks," but he indicated that "true Latin American democracies have lost a battle in the difficult war against dual standards which make democracy so fragile and short-lived."

He added: "This experience is a lesson for us because we still have a long way to go. Democracies, and especially my country, now know who our friends are and who those who practice what they preach are.

"I can still hear, like the sirens' song, President Carter's words conveyed to us by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance: 'We shall support and constantly encourage those political regimes which allow their people to fully and democratically participate in the decisions which affect their lives.' It is a very nice phrase, and I hope it amounts to something sometime. America has a long memory," Jimenez concluded.

Barbadian Elected Deputy Head

PY241624 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Oct (AFP)--Barbadian Valerie McComie was elected deputy secretary general of the OAS by 14 votes to 13 for the incumbent, Jorge Zelaya Coronado of Guatemala.

Legal, Political Committee Elections

PY250137 Paris AFP in Spanish 2257 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 24 Oct (AFP)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano was elected this afternoon as chairman of the OAS committee which will discuss the legal and political affairs included in the assembly's agenda.

This committee met for the first time today and also elected Costa Rican Ambassador Rafael Echeverria as deputy chairman and Argentine delegate Marcelo Huergo as reporter.

Among the committee's most important issues are the Belize case and an evaluation of the status of human rights in the continent on the basis of the annual IHRC report and a special report on El Salvador.

Nicaraguan Calls for Change

PA241259 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2301 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] La Paz, 23 Oct (EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto said here today that the role the OAS is currently playing in Latin America is that of a U.S. "ministry of colonies."

In a statement to EFE, D'Escoto expressed his total disagreement with the work of the OAS and indicated that the organization urgently needs to be changed.

The OAS merely "fulfills protocol functions and neither represents nor enjoys the affection of our Latin American masses," the diplomat added. "In Latin America," he added, "the people are on one side and the governments are on another."

According to D'Escoto, this is the first time the new Nicaraguan Government has officially participated in the OAS to establish contacts and to "see what can be done to change the organization." The foreign minister said that "Nicaragua was never represented in the OAS; the only thing that was present was a U.S. puppet."

In a direct attack on U.S. policy, D'Escoto said that since the OAS is a regional organization, "the presence of the United States is inconceivable."

Regarding the election of the OAS secretary general tomorrow, the foreign minister hinted that he will vote for Dominican Foreign Secretary Ramon Emilio Jimenez. Nevertheless, D'Escoto described the subject of the election, which is given great importance in the assembly, as a smokescreen to conceal the real problems of the OAS.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister made special note of the "boycott by the OAS against the sister Republic of Cuba," describing it as "the great crime committed" by that organization.

He stressed nevertheless, that "it is worthwile to make an effort" to pull the organization forward. As a means to achieve this, D'Escoto suggested that an informal meeting of foreign ministers be held to discuss openly the continent's problems.

Venezuelan Scores U.S. Maneuvers

FL232234 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1916 GMT 23 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano has called the deployment of U.S. military forces in the Caribbean unfortunate conduct, and he said that this attitude compromises North American credibility. In a speech to the Ninth OAS General Assembly in La Paz, Bolivia, Zambrano expressed Venezuela's deep concern over the U.S. military deployment in the Caribbean and the official statements made along with this deployment. He said that North American conduct is unfortunate from all points of view because it shows the Caribbean countries submitted to U.S. military tutelage. He then pointed out the immense North American responsibility in maintianing world peace. He warned that the attitude of that country in this case could lead to dangerous errors of understanding in possible future situations of real crisis.

Jamaican Criticism of U.S. Presence

FL241712 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Jamaica's Ambassador to the Organization of American States Alfred Rattray today renewed government's strong criticism of the increased United States military presence in the Caribbean. And, although U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in his address to the OAS General Assembly yesterday placed top priority on the issue of hemispheric security, Mr Rattray's statements gained support from Venezuela.

In his statement, Ambassador Rattray rejected the Caribbean as a sphere of military conflict among big powers and noted that efforts were always made to maintain the region as an area of peace. Repeating an earlier statement from Jamaica, Guyana, Grenada and St. Lucia, Mr Rattray further underlined the need for respect for sovereign equality and independence of all states and their rights to choose their own political and economic systems.

Ambassador Rattray also called for a shift in emphasis by the OAS from political issues to human development efforts.

The OAS General Assembly is now in its third day in the Bolivian capital La Paz.

Further On Jamaican Speech

FL241136 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Excerpt] In a speech made yesterday at the OAS Assembly meeting in Bolivia, Jamaica expressed concern for the worsening of tensions in the Caribbean and expressed the will of area countries to maintain it as a peace zone. Jamaican delegate to the OAS meeting Albert Rattray asked that the joint declaration issued by a group of Caribbean nations when the United States announced the bellicose maneuvers be made a part of the meeting's records.

Grenada Raps U.S. Task Force

PY250245 Paris AFP in Spanish 0215 GMT 25 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 24 Oct (AFP)--Grenada today urged the OAS General Assembly to demand the disbandment of the U.S. task force in Caribbean.

"In view of the fact that President Carter himself admitted that the Soviet troops in Cuba are not a threat to the United States, we believe that the creation of a Caribbean task force is a hostile act of intimidation and threat," Grenada Education Minister George Louison, head of that country's OAS delegation, stated.

SUGAR EXPERTS HOLD MEETING TO SOLVE PRICING SYSTEM

FL231344 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Oct 79 FL

[Text] In (Cocoyot), Mexico, Latin American sugar specialists have opened a 5-day meeting whose main task will be to find better price levels so as to make the production of sugar in the continent a profitable endeavor. The meeting, sponsored by the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries--GEPLACEA--will also discuss the effects of the U.S. and European Economic Community's negative attitude toward the international sugar agreement of 1977. The meeting will afford and opportunity to the participants to adopt a regional common stance in preparation for the meeting to be held in London next month by the International Sugar Organization in an effort to stabilize the sugar market.

Cubans Elected to Committee Posts

FL241341 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Cuban sugar expert Horacio Tabio (York) was elected chairman of the agreements committee of the 11th plenary session of the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries--GEPLACEA. Another Cuban specialist, Iris (Nocero) de Leon, was designated reporter of the conference's market and statistics committee. The GEPLACEA conclave now has entered its second day of work session with private meetings of the agreements, market and statistics, technology, administrative matters and budget committees.

MEXICO RECALLS AMBASSADOR OVER CAMPORA CASE

PY250209 Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 24 Oct 79 p 5 PY

[Excerpt] Mexico City--Mexican ambassador to Argentina Jose Lara Villareal has been in this capital since last Friday "to take up at the highest level" the case of the three asylees in the Mexican Embassy in Buenos Aires, including former Argentine President Hector Campora, it was learned today.

According to reliable sources, Ambassador Villareal was urgently recalled by authorities of the Mexican Foreign Ministry. The move is said to be related "to the repeated refusal of the Argentine Government to comply with international rules of asylum and allow Campora, his son Hector Pedro and Peronist leader Juan Manuel Abal Medina leave the country."

PRC AMBASSADOR CITES IMPORTANCE OF VIDELA VISIT

PY241441 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1250 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 24 Oct (NA)--Xu Zhongfu, the PRC ambassador to Argentina, declared that the visit which the Argentine president will make to his country next April "is a turning point in bilateral relations."

The diplomat also stated that in the economic field, the Beijing government is interested in obtaining grain, soybeans, oils, cotton and seamless steel tubes.

The ambassador, who said he was in Mendoza Province to study its economic prospects, did not discount the possibility that in the near future local wines would be exported to China.

He also stressed that the relations between his country and Argentina were much more flexible, "which will, in the very near future, permit a broadening of prospects, not only trade but cultural as well."

Xu Zhongfu is the guest of the directors of Cristalerias de Cuyo S.A., who invited him to acquaint himself with the industrial and trade possibilities that Mendoza offers.

ADMIRAL MASSERA WARNS OF GROWING SOCIAL TENSION

PY241116 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Oct 79 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] "The growing social tension does not affect the workers alone. It is a problem which is becoming more critical and encompasses the professionals, the average businessmen and also the military officers," Adm Eduardo Emilio Massera stated yesterday, shortly before starting on his European tour.

Massera, who left at 1700 aboard an Aerolineas Argentinas flight to Madrid, also spoke about a recent meeting he held with the commander in chief of the navy, Adm Armando Lambruschini and other vice admirals. He explained that he did so "to outline my viewpoints concerning the situation of the nation, something I did a couple of months ago when I met with air force generals in response to an invitation extended by Lt Gen Omar Graffigna."

Massera also explained that the tour he was going to make would include Portugal, Italy, the FRG, Great Britain, France and Spain and would end in Paris on 8 November. According to him, the objectives of the tour "are identical to those of other trips" he made to Europe after he retired.

CUTA OPPOSES NEW LAW, CRITICIZES FINANCE SECRETARY

PY241440 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1208 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Oct (NA)--The United Leadership of Argentine Workers (CUTA) today requested a meeting of an "urgent nature" with the military junta in order to voice "the Argentine labor union's opinion" regarding the new professional associations law before it is approved.

The request was formally made by leaders Aldo Serrano (light and power) and Leonardo Extevez (traveling salesmen) through a note delivered to the junta (?deputy) secretary and addressed to Lt Gen Roberto Viola, Vice Adm Armando Lambruschini and Brig Gen Omar Graffigna.

It was learned that the CUTA has the intention of delivering to the junta a document in which it opposes the modification of the professional associations law without having been consulted previously.

But it was also disclosed that in the event the junta ignores the request for a meeting, the document--which some have termed as the final request for dialog--will be made public.

Scores Alemann Statement

PY250206 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Oct (NA)--The United Leadership of Argentine Workers (CUTA) today accused Finance Secretary Juan Alemann of inciting the Argentine workers movement "to order a strike to prove its representativity," and stated that "this provocation will not succeed because the Argentine workers movement is totally and absolutely responsible in its actions."

In a strong reaction released today, the CUTA states that "strikes, protests, petitions and legal demands for the fulfillment of union rights are legitimate mechanisms which the Argentine workers' movement will use strictly as required by its true and legitimate interests."

The workers' organization also asks "other levels of leadership" whether Alemann "is an antiworkers official encysted within the process" or whether "his ideas reflect the true leaning of a process whivh has so far depicted itself as aimed against no one, while in fact having a favorite target: the Argentine workers movement."

Alemann had stated that the leaders did not represent the workers movement and that this was shown by the fact that they did not dare to undergo the "ordeal by fire" because "nobody was paying attention to them."

LABOR MINISTRY REPORTS STATUS OF LABOR CONFLICTS

PY250139 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2325 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Oct (NA)--The Argentine Labor Ministry today officially reported that there are a total of 17 labor conflicts in the country involving 9,423 people.

GOVERNMENT ADAMANT ON DISBANDING EXISTING PARTIES

PY250019 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Oct 79 p 1 PY

[Text] The disbanding of existing political parties is the only point in the reform of the party system on which the government will not yield. This became clear yesterday when the leaders of the National Renewal Alliance in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, Nelson Marchezan and Jarbas Passarinho respectively, revealed that all other provisions can be negotiated.

At the ceremony to install the joint committee which will examine the parties reorganization bill in Congress, its spokesman, Senator Aderbal Jurema, stressed that the dissolution of the existing political parties is a settled question and that it is inevitable.

Twenty-two senators of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] signed and made public a note expressing their intention "to stay within a party which will continue the struggle of the MDB."

Senators Hugo Ramos, Amaral Peixoto, Leite Chaves and Nelson Carneiro did not sign the document, while Senators Lazaro Barbosa and Tancredo Neves signed it subject to the approval of colleagues in the regional directorates.

LUIS CARLOS PRESTES HOLDS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

PY241241 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Text] In addition to the party reorganization proposal, the newspapers tomorrow will carry the first press conference held by Luis Carlos Prestes, secretary general of the extinct Brazilian Communist Party, after 15 years in exile. Taking advantage of his political status, Prestes summarized events from the civil war to the union of peaceful forces in the fight for democracy.

Regarding the military, the communist leader said that the armed forces have always fought for democracy in our country, but that now we must put an end to that small group of torturers who undermine the armed forces and who are seizing power.

Expressing opposition to the Constituent Assembly because of the current exceptional regime in the country, Prestes made a call for the unity of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party]; PT [Labor Party]; PCB [Brazilian Communist Party] etc, to form a genuine opposition front to the regime which remains in power.

CORRECTION TO POLITICAL PARTIES REORGANIZATION BILL

In the item entitled "Political Parties Reorganization Bill Submitted to Congress" published in the 22 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page D 1, the subslug should read "[Text from political parties reorganization bill submitted to Congress by the executive branch on 18 October; numbering of articles throughout is as published]".

BRIEFS

MORE CASES OF LEPROSY--Rio de Janeiro, 23 Oct--According to a report released by the Brazilian Public Health Ministry, cases of leprosy have increased in Rio de Janeiro in the past 2 years by 31.9 percent. In 1976 there were only 834 cases; in 1977 there were 905, and last year there were 1,100 cases. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1745 GMT 23 Oct 79 PY]

GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES NEW SALVADORAN REGIME

PY241800 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Chile has officially recognized the new Salvadoran Government. This was reported today by the Chilean Foreign Ministry when it disclosed an exchange of notes between the Salvadoran Government junta and Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. In the note, the Salvadoran Government junta notified the foreign minister of the change in government and of its willingness to continue cordial relations with Chile. For his part, Foreign Minister Cubillos told Salvadoran authorities that Chile shares this same desire.

Moreover, the Chilean Foreign Ministry disclosed a note that Hernan Cubillos sent to his Salvadoran colleague, Hector Daza. In it Cubillos congratulated his colleague on his appointment and added that he hopes there will be permanent cooperation between them to achieve a better understanding between their countries. Furthermore, Cubillos noted his willingness to work to achieve this objective.

CUBILLOS TERMS GUEVARA'S OAS SPEECH 'INADMISSIBLE'

PY242029 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1928 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 24 Oct (LATIN)--Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos termed inadmissible and mistaken the remarks of Bolivian President Walter Guevara Arze, who in his OAS Assembly opening speech asked for the cooperation of all nations in obtaining a review of the treaties with Chile in order to get a sea outlet for Bolivia.

"He will be given the answer he deserves," Cubillos told journalists before entering his office today. He also indicated that he did not want to discuss the subject further.

BRIEFS

WHEAT, RICE PRODUCTION--Agriculture Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata has reported that wheat production has reached the 1-million-ton mark in the 1978-1979 harvest, while rice production has dropped by 72 percent. [Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0039 GMT 12 Oct 79 PY]

STEEL PRODUCTION FIGURES--It is estimated that rational steel production for this year will total a record 670,000 tons. This information is included in a report submitted to the recently held Iron and Steel Congress, ILAFA. The report notes that in the first 7 months of 1979, national production totaled 367,000 tons, a figure that is 18 percent higher than that of last year. The report adds that national steel production increased by 9 percent during 1978. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Oct 79 PY]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INCREASES--Industrial production increased by 9.8 percent during the first 8 months of the year. The Industrial Development Association [SOFOFA] reported that the levels reached during these months surpassed all estimates. The growth of the production and sale indexes are the highest in the last 10 years. The sector that registered the highest increase is the manufacturing sector, which increased by 16.9 percent. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Oct 79 PY]

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH TONGA--Chile has established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with the Kingdom of Tonga. This is another step forward in Chile's growing presence in the South Pacific. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Oct 79 PY]

DEFENSE MINISTER ADMITS M-19 INFILTRATION

PA241509 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2337 GMT 21 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 21 Oct (EFE)--National Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva has admitted that the clandestine 19 April (M-19) guerrilla organization conducted espionage activities inside the state intelligence services.

General Camacho said the guerrilla group succeeded in infiltrating the military intelligence service and obtained extremely valuable information about army activities against urban guerrillas.

Guerrilla Fabio Monje Benavides, who was in refuge at the Costa Rican Embassy until a few days ago, skillfully conducted "counterespionage" activities inside the Intelligence and Counterintelligence Batallion (BINCI), the senior officer explained

Informer Feliz Pastrana, who managed to infiltrate the M-19's urban cadres, was executed a few days ago, it was learned in Bogota.

The relatives of Fabio Monje Benavides, his wife and five children, left Saturday for Honduras, military sources have disclosed here.

Early this year, the M-19--several members of which will be tried shortly--stole 5,000 weapons from a military depot in norther Bogota and kidnapped and killed Jose Raquel Mercado, president of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia, over 4 years ago.

M-19 LEADER ARRESTED IN BUCARAMANGA AREA

PA250152 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bucaramanga--A 5th Brigade detachment arrested Elias (Ahuad) Maestre, one of the leaders of the underground M-19 movement led by physician and former Congressman Carlos Toledo Plata. (Ahuad) is uncle of guerrillas Elias and Alonso Ojeda (Ahuad) of the self-styled Army of National Liberation. He was arrested in the township of Aguachica.

The guerrilla was leader of a powerful M-19 cell in southern El Cesar Department near the border with Santander Department. Elias (Ahuad) carried out his subversive work under the cover of a prestigicus businessman in Aguachica, station reporter Hector Gomez reported.

The M-19 leader was brought to Bucaramanga today and he is at the 5th Brigade headquarters.

M-19 GUERRILLA SEEKS ASYLUM IN ECUADOREAN EMBASSY

PA241438 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--It was reported last night that a member of the Marxist 19 April movement [M-19] has sought asylum at the Ecuadorean Embassy where another guerrilla, Eduardo Garcia, is already in refuge. The embassy promised to release a communique on the incident today but did not deny or confirm the report. Meanwhile the secret services have kept quiet about it.

PSR NOMINATES MEZA CUADRA FOR PRESIDENT

PA241857 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0053 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 Oct (LATIN)--The Socialist Revolutionary Party, [PSR] has nominated Secretary General Antonio Meza Cuadra for president in the general elections to be held on 18 May 1980.

A PSR bulletin noted that Meza Cuadra was nominated after retired Gen Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa--who founded the party--declined the nomination. Rodriguez Figueroa was a member of the military government of the late Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado.

The brilliant candidate, a doctor, held important posts in the Velasco government. The document also announced that Meza Cuadra will be proposed as candidate for the leftist front which is being organized with the Peruvian Communist Party, the Popular Student, Peasant and Worker Front and other small leftist organizations.

Meza Cuadra was elected to the former constituent assembly during last year's elections, the first to be held in 12 years of military governments.

The PSR is considered one of Peru's main leftist forces. Its members include military officers and civilians who supported the Velasco regime.

Rodriguez Figueroa helped overthrow Fernando Belaunde Terry, the country's last constitutional president, when he was a colonel in 1968.

NEW AERONAUTICS MINISTER SWORN IN

PA192334 Paris AFP in Spanish 1846 GMT 19 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 19 Oct (AFP)--President Francisco Morales Bermudez at noon swore in Lt Gen Luis Arias Graziani as new Peruvian aeronautics minister. The new minister, who replaces retired Gen Luis Galindo, had been head of the Armed Forces Joint Command. Gen Rafael Hoyos Rubio assumed that post shortly after the swearing-in ceremony.

Lt Gen Luis Arias Graziani, a 53-year-old former commerce minister, also became a member of the military junta composed of Prime Minister Div Gen Pedro Richter and Navy Minister Vice Adm Carlos Tirado.

BRIEFS

YUGOSLAV LOAN--Lima, 20 Sep--Yugoslavia will loan Peru $55 million to finance the second phase of the Chira-Piura irrigation project, Yugoslav Ambassador Luka Soldic said today before returning to his country at the end of his diplomatic mission. He indicated that with this loan Yugoslavia is helping Peru in the development of its agriculture and added that a mission of the Yugoslav enterprise Energoprojekt is currently in Peru to coordinate the loan. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 21 Sep 79 PA]

FIVE ARRESTED UNDER CHARGES OF INCITING CIVIL WAR

PA241834 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Five persons have been arrested and brought before the Assistant District Attorney's Office under charges of inciting civil war, arming of troops and subversion.

They are Panamanians Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus, Manuel Vallarino Quijano and Louis Martinz. Also under arrest are Wilfredo Bermudez, a Cuban who resides in Miami, and U.S. citizen Thomas James Bleming. They are under arrest as a result of investigations which were started on 15 October following the arrest of the two foreigners involved in this case, who were accused of inciting civil war.

It should be noted that these two persons are members of a group of mercenaries who fought in Vietnam, were hired by Abraham Crocamo and introduced through Costa Rica. These persons tried to collect money to purchase arms and seize the National Guard garrison in David but the plan failed.

It was reported that investigations are under way to find Crocamo who is still at large. Crocamo stands accused of hiding a large quantity of arms.

It has also been reported that one of the supporters of the seditious plan is Teofila Pereira, relative of fascist Voloj Pereira. He gave large amounts of money to those being held.

Habeas corpus writs have been filed in favor of the three Panamanians under arrest who were found to be in possession of a large amount of arms and ammunition.

Deputy Attorney General's News Conference

PA241851 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1923 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Four arrests are being investigated by Deputy Attorney General Isaac Chang Vega of the National Investigations Department regarding the uncovering of a foiled subversive plot, the prosecutor reported during a news conference this morning. The names of the arrested are Wilfredo Francisco Bermudez, a naturalized Cuban-American; Thomas James Bleming, an American; Vicente Antonio Barletta Insturain and Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus, both Panamanians and the latter a former National Guard sergeant. Their arrests are connected with those of people arrested for involvement in antigovernment activities including Luis Martinz Anderson, who financed the movement; Celso Feijoo; Manuel Vallarino Quijano and other people whom prosecutor Chang Vega discussed extensively.

[Begin Chang Vega recording] I asked you here to explain in detail the results of the investigation I started on 15 October into the arrest of a Panamanian citizen and two foreigners, a Cuban-American and an American, both Vietnam War veterans. They belong to a group of mercenaries hired and brought to the country through Costa Rica by Mr Abraham Crocamo and a group of Chiriqui residents.

As you may recall, a light tower or pole at the Balguena plant in David, Chiriqui, was destroyed in February 1979, and it was followed by an investigation, but the actual criminals were never found. Only the accomplices and masterminds were found. My questioning of the four people initially arrested in connection with the incidents that I am briefly going to narrate shed some light on the investigation.

First, Mr Vicente Antonio Barletta Insturain was arrested between 1430 and 1500 on 11 October in La Concepcion, Chiriqui. He had been seen last year along with other Panamanians making constant visits to Chiriqui Province and meeting with people such as Mrs Ibis Rivera Osorio, Andres de Puig, Edgar de Puig, Jose Demetrio Sagel and many others who have openly voiced their opposition to this government in Chiriqui. As a result of the meetings held toward the end of November or early December, they decided first, to place bombs in David as in the case of the one I mentioned earlier [at the Balbuena plant].

Second, they met to solicit funds throughout the country to finance future attacks. Next, they started holding meetings with four Cubans and two Americans who are Vietnam War veterans. Thus, they planned a number of attacks. Some Panamanians were footing the bill. On 26 or 27 December, three of the Cubans went to Panama City and Mr Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus and a young woman named Maira Omayra Arango put them in touch with Mr Luis Martinz Anderson because, following instructions given to them by Mr Abraham Crocamo, Martinz had pledged to provide no less than 200,000 to 300,000 balboas to finance the subversive movement. In a deposition made the night before last, Mr Martinz admitted they visited him and talked about funding the movement led by Crocamo and his friends in Chiriqui. But he supplied only 1,500 balboas because it was difficult for him to secure so much money because he thinks he is being very closely watched by the National Guard and Panamanian Government officials.

They returned to Costa Rica with the money and met Crocamo again.

How did the initial arrests that gave the clue to the planned movement occur? As I explained earlier, Vicente Antonio Barletta was asked by Crocamo at noon on 11 October [to go] to La Concepcion, Chiriqui, to look for a man named Fidel who was the contact with the person responsible for recruiting the people who would be involved in attacking the David Garrison. You can see eight weapons here: A German-made Walter 9mm pistol with these rounds, was carried by Cuban-American Wilfredo Bermudez (Sayas); the 38-caliber special (?full) pistol that you see with its rounds was carried by American Thomas James Bleming.

When Barletta was arrested in La Concepcion, he was looking for Fidel. The National Guard in La Concepcion, who had been looking for him, recognized him and stopped him to ask what he was doing. He immediately explained to them what we have summed up so far and took them to the home of a Mr Carrera, 1 and 1/2 miles outside of La Concepsion where he had left Cuban American Wilfredo Bermudez and American Thomas Bleming. The National Guard arrested them, disarmed them and took them to the garrison. When they made their initial depositions they gave extensive details on the entire organization.

Thus Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus was also arrested in Panama City. A man named Manuel Vallarino Quijano, who had been in touch with the group in Chiriqui, including Mrs Rivera Osorio, Andy de Puig and his son Edgar de Puig, one Celso Feijoo, the said Fidel, Mr Jose Demetrio Sagel and others, had agreed to begin a number of attacks on 11 October to take advantage of the demonstrations that were being staged in Chiriqui.

The plan was to set up a force that Crocamo recruited with about 16 weapons that Crocamo had which had been brought by the Cuban-American and American mercenaries to Costa Rica, along with some other weapons that Crocamo would supply. Mr Manuel Vallarino Quijano had gone to Chiriqui around 1 or 2 October and they had coordinated the attack for 9, 10 or 11 October. At the meeting in early October they agreed that two mortars were needed to back the attack on the David garrison, and it was reported that Crocamo could [not] purchase the mortars and that money was needed.

Vallarino returned to Panama [City] to look for the weapons he had, which, according to despoitions by Mr Vicente Antonio Barletta and Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus, were 4 M-1 and M-2 carbines, 3 telescopic lens rifles, a (?Hornet) 22-caliber rifle, 2 45-caliber pistols and 12 to 15 pistols and revolvers of various calibers.

They took those weapons to Chiriqui on 7 October on a small bus they hired in order to keep Manuel Vallarino Quijano's car from being identified. On Saturday they met with a man by the name of Pai Hartman, who provided 3,800 balboas; Mr Feijoo, who provided 170 balboas; Mr De Puig, who contributed 800 balboas; and with Mrs Teofila Pereira of Voloj Pereira's movement, who had received money to arrange transportation for the people who should have participated in Voloj Pereira's demonstration. She gave 500 balboas of that money. Vallarino added 2,000 balboas that he had brought from Panama City.

They got together 5,600-5,800 balboas. That was forwarded in the afternoon, or rather the early evening hours, to Crocamo, who was staying and operating at a motel located between Villa Neilly and the Paso Canoas border post. They sent him 5,600 balboas so he could purchase the two mortars and ammunition to support the attack on the David Garrison.

For one reason or another, however, Crocamo did not come with the mortars on the evening of 8 October to the hotel where the attack plan and time would be finalized. According to Barletta's and Portocarrero's statements, this seems to have upset Vallarino Quijano, who left the two men [muchachos] in charge of the Chiriqui operation on his behalf and immediately returned to Panama City because he had to organize and participate in the 11 October demonstrations. He stopped in La Concepcion and turned the weapons over to Celso Feijoo, asking him to keep them for him and deliver them only to him personally or to someone he would indicate.

With a map of Chiriqui Province, Crocamo planned the action. Barletta, with his experience as a former National Guard officer, and Portocarrero, as a former National Guard sergeant, along with the men whom Fidel was going to supply and the weapons that Feijoo had cached, would begin the attack on the David Garrison. In turn, the attack would be supported by a terrorist action consisting of stealing a fire engine, emptying it of water, stealing gasoline from a gas station and then, with a full tank, attacking the garrison and setting fire to it to force the troops to flee. They would hunt them down like ducks because they would have the garrison surrounded.

But this operation was foiled with the arrest of the two Cubans and Barletta. Meanwhile, as operation commander, Crocamo had assigned himself the mission of attacking and taking over the Paso Cano Garrison, going down the road, attacking and destroying the Puerto Armuelles Garrison and going back up again to support Barletta and Portocarrero. These people were also expecting that in view of such an attack, the opponents of the government who were participating in the demonstrations would join them and so civil war, or a revolution as they call it, would break out. Crocamo had even called his organization in Costa Rica the Panamanian Liberation Army [Ejercito de Liberacion Panameno].

No doubt they were expecting a large number of the Chiriqui population to join them. Many people in Chiriqui have weapons, some legally registered and some not, and this would touch off the movement. They felt that in view of such an attack the reaction of the government's opponents all over the nation would not be long in coming. They were expecting that the National Guard troops in Panama City would not be able to move on that date because they had to safeguard public order in view of the current situation in Panama. Thus they were counting on guaranteed success in Chiriqui, at least in the first few hours or first few days.

Barletta said their alternate plan contemplated taking to the hills and compelling the National Guard to pursue them so as to start a sort of guerrilla warfare. The four men are now under arrest at my disposal.

Wilfredo Francisco Bermudez and Thomas James Bleming are also under arrest at the disposal of the first circuit prosecutor in Chiriqui to answer for destruction of the electrical installations in David in February. I am also holding Vicente Antonio Barletta under arrest for committing a common crime, the vulgar armed robbery of a Panamanian citizen. Incidentally, that crime was committed in Panama City in mid-September and Barletta has admitted his guilt. He confessed to me that he did it because he needed the money. The victim in question was robbed at gunpoint of 3,200 balboas.

Concerning Mr Luis Martinz' arrest, [words indistinct] depositions by the four people I have previously cited--Bermudez, Bleming, Barletta and Portocarrero--he was told what would be done with the money he was going to provide, and that he actually provided 1,500 balboas because, as he said, he did not have any more money available at the time. No doubt his attitude makes him an accessory after the fact, a collaborator and, in a word, an accomplice.

So far the dossier contains 101 pages. This morning I was compelled to answer to the Supreme Court regarding writs of habeas corpus filed for Vicente Antonio Barletta, Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus and Luis Martinz Anderson. I have already filed the customary report and sent the dossier to the Supreme Court. I sent these petitions to that high court to get a final ruling. As far as the ministry is concerned, we have provisionally qualified the preliminary proceedings as, among other things, inciting to civil war, arming troops or persons and resorting to intimidation. These crimes are referred to in Article 8, Volume 2 of our criminal code as crimes against public order.

You will wonder why only two pistols have been presented here, and the answer to that is very simple. Since the forces involved in these [words indistinct] activities always take precautions not to have their weapons taken away, as I reported, they were well kept in Panama City by Celso Feijoo. They are hidden. We are doing everything we can to find them. We are tracking them down, as they say.

The weapons that the Cuban-Americans and the two Americans say they brought to Panama--all four agreed on this during questioning--include an American AR-15 rifle, also known as the M-16. It is the basic weapon of many Latin American armies, and especially the U.S. Army. Also an M-2 30-caliber carbine, a 12-gage sawed-off double-barreled shotgun, a German-made automatic HK-2-23 rifle, two 45-caliber pistols, a 9mm Stark pistol, two 3.57 magnum revolvers, one with a long-range barrel and the other with a short-range one, a Russian-made 9mm (Pokarov) pistol, a (.380) (?Beretta) pistol, a 38 special revolver, a 32-caliber pistol, two artillery simulators, two flares, two grenades and a supply of 2,000-3,000 rounds of ammunition.

I repeat that most of these weapons are in the hands of Crocamo. Proof that Crocamo also possesses weapons that he purchased with his own money in Costa Rica is these two pistols which are not part of the equipment brought by the mercenaries--in addition to the fact that the mercenaries have said that Crocamo, because he lived in Costa Rica so long, had purchased some weapons.

This long story about the movement also led Crocamo to seek contact with former officers of the defunct [Nicaraguan] National Guard, who had offered to procure a large number of weapons for him.

However, Crocamo could not bring the weapons to Costa Rica on time because of th serious situation in Nicaragua, that is, the Nicaraguan civil war, and because the person who was to supply the trucks to transport the weapons to Costa Rica saw that the Sandinists were taking over in Nicaragua and he would not take the risk of travaling to Nicaragua to get the weapons.

Otherwise the number of weapons would have been much larger because the Cubans have testified that Crocamo had already received weapons offered by Nicaraguan National Guard officers. This was also confirmed by Vicente Antonio Barletta, the former National Guard officer, and Leoncio Portocarrero Lemus, who frequently went to Costa Rica to meet with Crocamo to coordinate the operation in Panama.

Our investigation will continue. We know that apart from the perso s I already mentioned there are many more we want to interrogate. I only hope that the honorable Supreme Court will rule on the habeas corpus writ soon so that I may have the main dossier back and continue with my questioning.

I have here--and this is no secret--a copy of the main dossier, which as I said before is made up of 101 [word indistinct] of testimony and evidence we have gathered for the state.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Including Mr Martinz, whose arrest I confirmed last night, there are five persons under arrest. The habeas corpus are exclusively for Panamanian citizens. Wilfredo Francisco Bermudez, a Cuban-born naturalized U.S. citizen, and Thomas James Bleming remain under arrest.

GOVERNMENT DRAFTING FINAL PROPOSALS TO TEACHERS

PA241242 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Today's negotiations in connection with the teachers' strike were suspended because a document containing the government's offers is being drafted.

According to a letter from Education Minister Gustavo Garcia de Paredes to the leaders of the three associations of teachers and professors, the document will include the various offers made as well as the additional improvements introduced by the president in his speech last night. The letter adds that juridicial instruments needed to implement these final proposals are also being drafted. A meeting will be held tomorrow at a time to be announced. The documents will be handed over at this meeting.

The leaders of the three associations of educators on strike for over 53 days responded to Minister Garcia de Paredes' note by reiterating that the strike will continue until we reach points of agreement which make it possible to suspend the strike.

The [educators'] letter, issued almost immediately after receiving the education minister's note, stated that the educators' response to the proposals on Saturday would be delivered today to the government's negotiating committee.

The striking educators' three leaders deplored the fact that it had not been possible to hold the meeting today. They added that the documents the government is currently drafting must be subject to discussion at the negotiating table before being passed on to the educators, who will have to express their views on the subject.

Communique on Final Response

PA241242 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Communique issued by the presidency, presumably 23 October]

[Text] The Information Secretariat of the Presidency announces that Ministers Gustavo Garcia de Paredes, Gustavo Gonzalez and Oyden Ortega, along with a group of high-ranking Education Ministry officials, are currently drafting a document that contains the national government's final response to the striking educators, based on the speech to the nation that President Royo delivered last night.

Juridical implementation of the president's offers entails the drafting of several decrees, bills and other administrative measures. For this reason the executive branch's response to the educators will be delivered to them in the course of the day, once it is set forth in a final document, which is to be released to the nation.

Educators and citizens in general are therefore advised that the national government's responses will be formally delivered in the course of the day, just as a note delivered to the teachers' leaders earlier this afternoon stated.

EDUCATION MINISTRY CALLS FOR RETURN TO CLASSES

PA241228 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Education Ministry communique issued on 23 October 1979]

[Text] The Education Ministry informs the citizenry that in statements made last night before the plenum of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, in a public session broadcast to the country over radio and television, his excellency the president of the republic gave the government's final response to the striking teachers in what constitutes an effort at conciliation to solve the current crisis in the educational system. Therefore, it is not possible to increase the offers which were made.

The national government, inspired not only by concern for the teachers' well-being, but also by a clear understanding of the detriment caused by a strike to the teachers and to parents, calls on all directors, assistant directors, teachers and administrative personnel of all schools in the country to return to classes Wednesday, 24 October. This is in response to the summons to classes made by the president of the republic and the interests of the Panamanian family.

This call is being made to avoid the loss of the school year, since this would cause serious harm to 573,864 students, especially the 94,991 graduates at all school levels, of which 84,521 are enrolled in public schools and 10,470 in private schools.

If the present school year is lost, 70,000 students presently in first grade would have to repeat that grade next year. This means no child will be able to enroll in first grade next year.

[Signed] Dr Gustavo Garcia de Paredes, minister of education.

Students Return to School

PA250256 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Thousands of students returned today to their schools which have been idle for over 55 days because of the strike called by the three teacher and professor associations. The primary and secondary schools in the republic formally opened their doors today so that the 564,000 students, thirsty for knowledge, could receive their constitutionally guaranteed education. Although most teachers were absent from some high schools, students and parents heeded the appeal of President Aristides Royo to the country last Monday.

GOVERNMENT PAYS TEACHERS' BACK WAGES

PA250328 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] In compliance with the orders personally issued by President Aristides Royo, the national government today began to pay the salaries for the second fortnight of the month of September and the first fortnight of the month of October to the 23,000 teachers who have been on strike since early in September.

Many parents took their children to school this morning. However, the teachers did not report to work, despite the appeal made by the president after having broadened the government's proposal to end the conflict. The Ministry of Education said that there had been partial attendance by students and teachers across the nation.

INDEPENDENT LAWYERS CALL FOR COMMITTEE TO RECOVER DEMOCRACY

PA241239 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Communique issued by the Movement of Independent Lawyers, presumably on 23 October 1979]

[Text] [No 1 not given] Last night the president of the republic delivered another message to the nation concerning the serious crisis being experienced in the national education system.

2. As the stage for this message he chose the chamber of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, proving the political intent of that governmental act.

3. Along with a clear recognition of the frequent errors made by the administration, the speech alternated between promises to solve the educational crisis and intimidating phrases directed toward the sectors which have supported the teachers' movement and toward government employees who have been expressing demands.

4. The Movement of Independent Lawyers has systematically denounced the violations of democratic freedoms by this government, violations disguised and unscrupulously denied in the referent speech.

5. It is urgent that labor and civic organizations which have supported the teachers' movement be channeled toward the establishment of a national civic committee for the recovery of democracy. To this end, the Movement of Independent Lawyers hereby calls on the above-mentioned organizations to establish immediately this committee for the recovery of democracy in Panama at a time and place that will be announced opportunely.

[Signed] Fabian Echever, president.

BELIZE

ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED, ELECTIONS SET FOR 21 NOVEMBER

FL241430 Belize City REPORTER in English 21 Oct 79 pp 1, 16 FL

[Excerpts] Belize's National Assembly was dissolved on Wednesday, October 17, three weeks before the constitutional life of the house and Senate ends, and new national elections will take place on Wednesday, November 21, according to a proclamation from Government House.

The election date puts an end to the speculation and signals the start of the countdown, with a generous five weeks to go before the voters of the country are consulted.

Although the house of representatives and the Senate are dissolved and no new laws can be passed, all ministers of government and their parliamentary secretaries continue to hold office. Senators and members of the house who are not ministers however, cease to have authority. The speaker of the house, though not his deputy, will continue in office until a new speaker has been named.

Registration day throughout the country, will be Thursday, November 1st.

So far as is known, there are no independent candidates competing in these elections, and the polling will be a straight two-way race between the 18 candidates of the United Democratic Party [UDP] and the 17 men and one woman of the PUP [People's United Party].

According to the latest figures available, there are 50,705 voters on the register of electors.

The U.D.P., powerful from its recent successes at local government elections, has been challenging the PUP in a bid for a more open economy, for greater participation among local elected bodies in the broad sweep of development policies, for complete freedom for the radio, television and other media and for new and more progressive economic policies.

In addition the U.D.P. accuses Price and his ministers of blatant and open corruption, of victimization of individuals and locally elected bodies such as the Belize City Council and the town boards and of a distinct lurching towards communist ideologies with emphasis on control of the factors of production in order to keep the Belize voter in a state of economic and political bondage.

The PUPs for their part claim credit for a number of development innovations dating back to 1954--the year when the party first took office. Among the more notable of PUP achievement is the flowering of the credit union and the co-operative movements and modest gains in education.

In more than 25 years however the PUP has not been able to come to grips with agricultural production, or unemployment, or sky-rocketing inflation. Its road programme has been only so-so, its medical and health services have not kept pace with the population growth, and it has allowed tourism, brightest gem of all because of the proven attraction of the sea, the reef, the yachting and scuba diving, to wither and stagnate because of a jaundiced view towards foreigners.

COSTA RICA

HUBER MATOS SAYS HE WILL NOT LEAD CUBAN EXILES

PA241623 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1234 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[By Eduardo Castro]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Huber Matos, former commander of the Cuban Province of Camaguey and former comrade-in-arms of President Fidel Castro, has emphatically denied here having tried to stage a rebellion against the Cuban Government in 1959. He also dismissed any possibility of assuming the leadership of the Cuban exile community.

Matos, who is now free after a 20-year prison sentence in Havana, arrived here Monday and held a 3-hour news conference yesterday.

Regarding his future plans, Matos said he is not familiar with exile provisions. He added that he will do his duty in exile just as he did in jail, without specifying the nature of such duty.

He stressed the need to obtain the release of the remaining Cuban prisoners. "The problem is not the Matos case; the problem is that as long as there is a single political prisoner we must rescue him from the communist Castroite jails" he said.

The former major, who left Costa Rica 21 years ago to deliver arms to the Sierra Maestra, severely criticized the negotiations being conducted by the "Committee of 75" of the Cuban community for the release of political prisoners. He said these negotiations are a "farce" and "a compromise between Castro and persons who do not represent the Cuban community."

"My faith in Cuba will only die when I die. I will keep on believing that my country will regain its freedom. A country may be subjugated for a few years, or perhaps for many years, but it will eventually become the master of its own fate."

Concluding, Matos said the Havana government has been announcing the release of political prisoners and pardons for persons who had been released several years ago. He said they are now living Cuba resigned to their present circumstances.

MAGAZINE CLAIMS U.S. TRAINING REPRESSIVE FORCES

FL242139 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2107 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The contradiction between the proclaimed policy of human rights in the United States and its close ties with Latin American military responsible for repression has been condemned in San Jose, Costa Rica by the magazine, HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The publication points out the links between North American officials, the military industry and the large bellicose consortiums with the military sectors which, for decades, have been responsible for imposing repression. The Costa Rican magazine adds that the U.S. Army has trained Latin American militarymen, teaching them repressive measures on behalf of the so-called counterinsurgency policy. It points out that they have unleased an immense pack of militarymen and police who are especially trained to cause the torture, killing and disappearance of people.

EL SALVADOR

BPR HOLDS LABOR, ECONOMY MINISTERS HOSTAGE

List of Demands

PA242057 Paris AFP in Spanish 2031 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Oct (AFP)--The extreme leftist Salvadoran People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] today occupied the labor and economy ministries and is holding approximately 400 persons hostage, among them the two ministers. The BPR said that it will continue with its action until the government junta accepts all of its demands.

Eighty members of the BPR occupied the ministries, located in the downtown area of the capital, and are holding Labor Minister Gabriel Gallegos and Economy Minister Manuel Enrique Hinds hostage. Each had assumed office yesterday. They are also holding some 200 employees of each of the ministries hostage.

The BPR is demanding from the government junta which assumed power 9 days ago, a 100-percent wage increase for peasants, government and private enterprise employees, and 30-day paid vacations.

The occupants of the ministries also are demanding the dissolving of all security bodies, that is, the National Police, the National Guard, and the Treasury Police, as well as the freeing of all the political prisoners whom the junta had promised to release.

The BPR seized the ministries by surprise when approximately 1,000 BPR demonstrators paraded down the streets near the cathedral which was occupied on Sunday by the same organization.

Demands on Behalf of Labor

PA242058 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2012 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[By Rene Contreras]

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] occupied the labor and economy ministries here at noon today. The leftist organization staged a demonstration against the revolutionary government junta in the morning which culminated with a march in front of the ministries.

While some BPR activists are inside the buildings, several thousand remain on 2d Avenue North where the Labor Ministry is located. The Economy Ministry is 400 meters away, on 4th Avenue North.

A BPR spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the occupation will continue until guarantees are given that the demands of the BPR, the "Jose Guillermo Rivas" Trade Union Coordinating Committee [JGRCCS] and the Farm Workers Federation (FTC) will be met.

This very morning Labor Minister Gabriel Gallegos Valdes had announced that he was willing to listen to demands from all of the country's labor sectors.

The ministers and personnel of both ministries are still inside the buildings.

The JGRCCS is asking for an across-the-board increase of 100 percent over the minimum wage for industrial, commerce and state workers beginning in November. They also demand an annual increase in minimum salaries based on the cost of living. In addition, they demand that all workers be entitled to 30 days annual leave regardless of seniority, and that payment for leave be made on the basis of 100 percent over the ordinary 30-day salary.

Another demand is that a Christmas bonus of 100 percent of the ordinary 30-day salary be paid to workers regardless of seniority. In addition, they demand respect for the collective bargaining rights of the state and employers and an end to mass and selective dismissals. They also want the Labor Ministry to intervene, as a state body, to prevent national and foreign employers from closing factories.

For its part, the BPR demands that the National Police, National Guard, Treasury Police and the Nationalist Democratic Organization (ORDEN) be dissolved. It also asks that the ministers and other officials of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's government, which was deposed 10 days ago by young military officers, be tried. They also demand indemnity payments for the relatives of missing political prisoners, no foreign intervention (especially from the United States) and a reduction in staple prices.

Junta Willingness To Talk

PA250016 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2340 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran revolutionary junta today reacted to the occupation of two ministries by opposition groups by reaffirming its willingness to enter into a dialog. A communique published after the junta and other high-ranking officials held an urgent meeting to discuss the occupation of the two ministries states that "in response to the peaceful occupation of the ministries of labor and economy, the government, by its attitude of nonintervention, once again indicates its desire to talk."

The reaction of the junta, which took power after the government of President Carlos Humberto Romero was ousted by a military coup on 15 October, was not like the usual response of the former Salvadoran regime under similar circumstances. Instead of cordoning off the area in which the occupied buildings are located and posting security forces in the area, the revolutionary junta decided to take the first step toward a dialog by sending the occupants food and water through the Red Cross.

The Salvadoran Government, through Maj Alvaro Salazar Brenes, the junta's secretary of information and the press, informed the BPR members occupying the buildings of its willingness to negotiate and to enter into a dialog to reach an agreement that is satisfactory to both sides. At the same time, the revolutionary junta gave preceise orders that the security corps should take absolutely no action in the area around the occupied buildings.

Four Hostages Released

PA250233 Parsi AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 25 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Oct (AFP)--The People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) today released four pregnant women who were among its hostages in the Economy Ministry. The rest of the approximately 200 hostages are fine, the BPR stated. The BPR members also indicated that negotiations for an agreement are being held between Economy Minister Manuel Hinds and Under Secretary Julio Linares--who are also among the hostages--and the BPR.

The BPR has said that Labor Minister Gabriel Gallegos will be responsible for what might occur to the occupants of that ministry also in the hands of members of that leftist organization. Gallegos is considered the most radical of the ministers in the current Salvadoran Cabinet which is primarily composed of Christian Democrats.

The BPR occupation of the economy and labor ministries is considered the first serious crisis the military government has had to confront since it assumed power on 15 October because the two ministers are among the hostages.

Demonstration Sparked Siege

PA242047 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1916 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The leftist People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] staged a demonstration this morning against the government revolutionary junta which it describes as "pro-imperialist."

For its part, the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners and Missing Persons of El Salvador staged a sit-in last night at the Libertad Plaza to exert pressure on the new junta to release the prisoners.

The BPR march started out from the Cuscatlan Plaza in the western sector of San Salvador and concluded in the downtown area. The demonstrators noted that in view of the Nicaraguan experience with the Sandinist victory over Somoza, "imperialism directed and supported the coup d'etat against Romero because he was inadequate for its plans of domination and exploitation." The demonstrators chanted slogans such as: "Neither reforms nor repression will stop revolution," and "Revolutionary junta, ha, ha, ha!"

Regarding the relatives of prisoners and missing persons, they demanded that "the war criminals of the previous government and the ones from the present be tried for all the murders, tortures and other humiliations inflicted on the people."

They explained that they resorted to the "sit-in" because they had seen with great concern that ever since the junta took over it "has not stopped massacring and repressing the people in the same way the previous regime did." They noted that they heard with grief the junta's stand to let the problem of the missing persons go as something which had been concluded by the previous regime. "We, the mothers and relatives, reject this stand and demand that the junta fulfill its promise to the Salvadoran people. Our actions and our work are evidence that there are prisoners and missing persons in Salvadoran jails," the relatives said.

The relatives announced that if the prisoners or missing persons are not released, they will go on an indefinite hunger strike.

The Salvadoran Human Rights Committee has stated that approximately 300 persons were arrested by security forces of the previous government.

FAPU MEMBERS SEIZE THIRD CHURCH IN SAN SALVADOR

PA241347 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador (AFP)--A third downtown capital city church was occupied today by leftwing extremists who continue to defy the revolutionary junta. Hundreds of extreme leftwing United Popular Action Front members occupied El Calvario Church where they brought the bodies of three of their colleagues who were killed during a march in the northern part of the capital.

POPULAR FORUM DEMONSTRATES IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

PA242349 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2334 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The center-left Popular Forum this afternoon held a demonstration in this city's streets in support of the new Salvadoran Government. Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo is the Forum's representative in the revolutionary government junta. Some of its members are also ministers and under secretaries in the recently formed government cabinet. The demonstration stressed the need for unity of all the country's sectors. The demonstrators also chanted "anti-imperialist and anti-oligarchic" slogans.

The Forum is composed of the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) and several union and peasant federations. It had included 14 organizations but in the past few days the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) and the 28 February People's League (LP-28) resigned to protest support of the revolutionary junta.

A manifesto distributed in the demonstration stressed that the people's demands apparently found support among the young militarymen who carried out a coup d'etat which ousted "assassin" Romero who headed the fascist clique. The manifesto stated that the young militarymen have removed part of the fascist clique from traditional political power and that advancing the current political situation depends on the implementation of their proclamation.

The Forum believes that agrarian reform is of great importance for changing the rural workers' lives. It also calls for the organization of "struggle committees for the defense of the people's interests in factories, neighborhoods, districts, ranches and other locations and institutions."

NEW LABOR MINISTER ENDS EXILE IN COSTA RICA

PA241516 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1759 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The new Salvadoran Labor and Social Welfare Minister Gabriel Gallegos Valdes arrived from Costa Rica this morning. He had been in exile in that country since 1972. Gallegos Valdes was a professor at the law school of the University of El Salvador and was forced to leave the country when the university was intervened by the military government.

The members of the new Salvadoran Cabinet were sworn in today. The cabinet includes military officers, Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, businessmen and representatives of other political and social sectors.

JUNTA REPORTS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, OTHER ISSUES

PA241240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran revolutionary junta today confirmed that there are currently no political prisoners in secret jails, which means that the long list of prisoners has become a list of missing persons.

Looking concerned, Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, one of the colonels involved in the coup, reported to the press today that the revolutionary junta's investigation into political prisoners and secret jails reached the surprising conclusion that those jails existed in the past but do not exist now. "It is regrettable that so many persons have disappeared," Colonel Gutierrez said. Gutierrez and Col Arnoldo Majano carried out the coup which overthrew the regime of Carlos Humberto Romero on 15 October.

Colonel Gutierrez explained that after receiving the list of prisoners drawn up by families and organizations, the government junta questioned the police and the result is that the prisoners tortured in the clandestine jails have not been found. "We will undertake a thorough investigation," Gutierrez added.

Gutierrez' role in the coup that overthrew Romero was essential. As the officer in charge of the armory, he provided weapons to the supporters of the coup and reduced the weapons avilable to those who could have opposed the revolt.

Regarding the violent actions carried out by the police after the coup and which led to the deaths of civilians, Gutierrez said it is understandable that after 4 years of trouble it is difficult to spread the new spirit among the armed forces. He added: "We have issued instructions to the police to avoid confrontations."

Another member of the junta, composed of three civilians and two officers, said contacts have already been established with the armed extreme leftist groups but that it is preferable not to disclose details of that dialog yet. Some guerrilla groups have declared a truce so the new government can show its good intentions, but others have stated that they will continue fighting until the end.

The revolutionary junta, which is increasingly feeling more secure, took another step today toward normalizing life in the country by lifting the state of siege and the curfew it imposed 2 days after the coup.

Col Arnoldo Majano, who is said to be the mastermind of the coup, today announced a broad reorganization of the armed forces which will include a purge of the individuals involved in torture and corruption. "There is discomfort with the new situation in the armed forces, but we are going to achieve the army's identification with the people," Majano added.

Asked if they acquired during the coup any type of commitment which prevents the drastic measures many sectors are demanding, the members of the junta emphatically denied any secret agreements. They added that persons cannot be judged without first investigating the type of ties they had with the previous corruption, violence and bloodshed.

Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez added: "The armed forces acted because they believed we were on the verge of a civil war."

SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE TEACHERS' DEATHS

PA250245 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Oct 79 p 2 PA

[Text] Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, member of the revolutionary government junta, said during a news conference on Thursday that a special commission will investigate the circumstances in which 32 teachers were killed.

One of the newsmen present asked what the new government will do about the assassinated professors, noting that they were killed over a period of from 3 to 6 months. Colonel Majano said that in the next few days a special commission will be established to investigate the manner in which the teachers were killed and determine the circumstances as well as the guilty persons involved.

Information obtained at the time of the events indicate that, although most of the assassinated teachers were members of the Salvadoran National Teachers' Association, some were not. Educator circles have said that it is possible that two opposing groups may have been involved in this wave of killings, thus complicating the investigation.

TEXT OF ARMED FORCES PROCLAMATION ON EMERGENCY PROGRAM

PA241317 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Oct 79 p 79 PA

[Proclamation issued by the revolutionary government junta]

[Text] Armed forces proclamation:

A. The Armed Forces of El Salvador, fully aware of their sacred duty to the Salvadoran people, and in full agreement with the cry of all inhabitants against a government which:

1. Has violated the human rights of the masses,

2. Has formented and tolerated corruption in the public administration and in the administration of justice,

3. Has created veritable economic and social disaster,

4. Has profoundly discredited the country and the noble armed institution,

B. Convinced that these problems have resulted from the antiquated economic, social and political structures that have traditionally prevailed in the country which do not offer the majority of inhabitants the minimal necessary conditions so they can develop as human beings. Moreover, the regime's corruption and lack of capability has elicited distrust in the private sector and, as a result of this, hundreds of million of colones have been taken out of the country, thus intensifying the economic crisis to the detriment of the people,

C. Certain that the previous governments, which came to power through scandalous electoral frauds, adopted inadequate development programs in which the timid structural changes proposed were curbed by the economic and political power of the conservative sectors, which at all times defended their ancestral privileges as a ruling class, even endangering the country's conscientious and socially-oriented capital which has expressed its interest in achieving just economic development for the people,

D. Firmly convinced that the above conditions are the fundamental cause of the current economic and social chaos and violence which can be overcome only through a government that guarantees the existence of a truly democratic regime,

The armed forces, whose members have always identified with the people, have therefore decided, on the basis of the peoples' right to rebel when rulers avoid fulfillment of the law, to depose the government of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero and to organize a revolutionary government junta that will include "mostly civilians whose absolute honesty and capability are beyond any doubt. [paragraph continues]

This junta will assume state power in order to create conditions necessary so all Salvadorans can have peace and live in accordance with human dignity in our country.

While necessary conditions are established for truly free elections in which the people can decide their future, it is essential, in view of the country's current chaotic political and social situation, to adopt an emergency program that includes urgent measures aimed at creating a climate of peace and at establishing the bases for a profound transformation of the country's economic, social and political structures.

Following are the guidelines of this emergency program:

I. An end to violence and corruption.

A) By making effective the dissolution of "ORDEN" [Nationalist Democratic Organization] and fighting those extremist organizations whose actions violate human rights.

B) By eradicating corrupt practices from public administration and the administration of justice.

II. Guaranteeing human rights.

A) By creating a climate favorable to the holding of truly free elections within a reasonable period of time.

B) By permitting the organization of parties of all ideologies, so the democratic system is strengthened.

C) By granting general amnesty to all exiles and political prisoners.

D) By acknowledging and respecting the right of all labor sectors to organize.

E) By stimulating free exchange of ideas in accordance with ethical guidelines.

III. The adoption of measures leading to an equitable distribution of the national wealth, while speedily increasing the gross national product.

A) By creating firm bases for an agrarian reform process.

B) By providing greater economic opportunities for the people through reforms in the country's financial, tax and foreign trade sectors.

C) By adopting consumer protection measures to counteract the effects of inflation.

D) By implementing special development programs aimed at increasing national production and creating additional job sources.

E) By acknowledging and guaranteeing the right of all of the country's inhabitants to housing, food, education and health.

F) By guaranteeing private property as a social function.

IV. Positive channeling of the country's external relations.

A) By reestablishing relations with the sister country of Honduras as soon as possible.

B) By strengthening ties with our Nicaraguan brothers and their government.

C) By expanding our ties with the peoples and governments of the sister republics of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama.

D) By establishing cordial relations with all countries willing to support our people's struggles and to respect our sovereignty.

E) By guaranteeing the fulfillment of acquired international commitments.

In order to rapidly achieve these goals, which the Salvadoran people are justly demanding, the revolutionary government junta will organize a cabinet comprising honest and capable elements who represent the various sectors and who will stake all their patriotism in the development of these lofty functions.

At this moment of veritable national emergency, a special appeal is made to all popular sectors and to socially-oriented private capital so they help begin a new era for El Salvador, framed within the principles of peace and effective respect for human rights of all citizens. Released in the City of San Salvador on 15 October 1979.

GUATEMALA

THREE SOLDIERS KILLED IN 24 OCT EGP AMBUSH

PA242229 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2149 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Three Guatemalan Army soldiers were killed today when a military patrol was ambushed by guerrillas operating in the northern Province of Quiche. The Ministry of Defense confirmed the report this afternoon and added that military contingents have been dispatched to find the subversives.

The clandestine Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), one of four groups of rebels operating in Guatemala, operates in El Quiche Province which borders Mexico. The EGP killed a military policeman yesterday in the Guatemalan capital and is still holding Jorge Raul Garcia Grandos, the kidnaped nephew of President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia.

EGP THREATENS LIFE OF SECRET POLICE CHIEF

PA250353 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Col Manuel Valiente, the chief of Guatemala's secret police, today challenged the Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] to confront him "face to face."

The director of the Detectives Department of the National Police was reacting with indignation to a telephone call from alleged members of the EGP who had threatened to kill him.

"I am not afraid of these communist guerrillas, even if they threaten me a thousand times," said Colonel Valiente. "I challenge the guerrillas to look for me like men and confront me face to face and not hide behind anonymity," added the police chief.

The EGP is one of the four guerrilla groups operating in Guatemala against the government.

HONDURAS

AUTHORITIES HOLD THREE NICARAGUAN FISHING BOATS

PA241439 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan fishing boats are being held in Honduran ports. The Honduran Government has not made any official explanation regarding the attitude of the La Ceiba port officials, who are arbitrarily holding three Nicaraguan fishing boats.

According to reports received by Cmdr Daniel Ortega Saavedra during his visit to fishing companies in El Bluff, the Nicaraguan fishermen arrived at the Honduran port aboard the Pesca Nica 21 to demand the return of the Somienze and Mr Luis, which were taken by Somozists as they fled after the revolutionary victory. However, the Nicaraguans were surprised when they found that instead of recovering the two ships they lost a third. Commander Ortega said the Foreign Ministry will start contacts on this matter with the Honduran Foreign Ministry.

BRIEFS

AGROINDUSTRIAL LOANS--So far this year, the National Development Bank has invested 150 million lempiras in agriculture. These loans have spurred the country's agrarian development and have been well received by the sectors dedicated to this type of activity. [Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Oct 79 PA]

NEW NICARAGUAN, DUTCH AMBASSADORS--Ricardo Wheelock Roman and Johannes Cornelius Petrus, the new ambassadors of Nicaragua and the Netherlands to Honduras, respectively, will present their credentials today. Ambassador Wheelock Roman studied at San Carlos University in Guatemala, at the Autonomous University of Mexico and at the University of Chile, where he received his Master Degree in philosophy with a major in history. This is the first time he serves his country's diplomatic corp. Ambassador Petrus studed law at the University of Nijmegen. He has represented his country in Rome, Djakarta, Madrid, Bogota and New York since 1953. [Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA]

NICARAGUA

ARCE DENIES HAND IN SALVADORAN SITUATION

PA241742 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2141 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Sandinist revolution Cmdr Bayardo Arce has again rejected the rumor that Nicaragua is supporting the subversion in El Salvador. In an informal talk with newsmen, Arce noted: "We know we defeated a strong enemy who had international ties even in the U.S. Congress."

Arce, a former journalism professor, said a U.S. congressman claimed "to know" about a plan by which the Sandinists "are provoking violence in El Salvador."

We are sure that not even the Salvadorans believe such a lie," he said.

He said the Nicaraguan revolution defined itself as democratic and nationalist from the very beginning and that reactionary elements are trying to create problems for us.

"We were watching to see where things were going to happen next, and they happened in El Salvador," the Sandinist commander said. He said what is happening in El Salvador is that the truth is being hidden but that the whole world can see what is occurring there.

Arce, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, recalled that El Salvador has experienced contradicting situations, dictatorships, coups d'etat, countercoups and so forth since 1932 and this has made the Salvadoran people decide to solve their own problems.

"Perhaps our Sandinist victory is an example, but it must be made clear once more that revolutions cannot be exported," he noted.

After reiterating that "Nicaragua has nothing to do with what is going on in El Salvador," Arce said the "Nica" stand concerning the Salvadoran events is one of expectation.

He added that the government is continuing to maintain relations with El Salvador but that no official statement has been issued on recognition of the new government.

"We do not want to judge Salvadoran domestic policy, which we respect just as we expect the Salvadorans to respect ours, but we cannot state our views until the situation there becomes clear," he said.

He noted that the Salvadoran Government issued a proclamation announcing a new government but that the result of the call made by the revolutionary organizations to continue the fight was unknown. He added that the outlook is still not clear.

The Sandinist leader responded to the fears of certain people who are afraid that the Nicaraguan process would "lead to communism." He said he feels that using that term "is an abuse. Anybody who knows that communism is a state of the socioeconomic development of society can see that we are far from achieving a development that allows us to satisfy the needs of the people. We would need a high degree of development in production and in economic and social aspects," he noted.

He said those persons who have not been in Nicaragua are the ones saying that the country has been converted into a "military or police state."

"On the contrary," he said, "visitors have expressed surprise over the absence of troops in the streets. We have been keeping our military forces together and the people move around peacefully. We have minimal police patrolling and the Nicaraguans never had so much freedom to leave or enter the country as they have now."

ARCE SAYS PANAMANIANS, CUBANS ADVISING ARMY

PA240446 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2256 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE) According to Nicaraguan Commander Bayardo Arce, most of the Sandinist Peoples Army's military advisers are Panamanian. Nonetheless, he told newsmen the army also has three or four Cuban military advisers. But, he noted, Cuban solidarity with Nicaragua is something "that is well known."

According to Arce, Cuba's aid to Nicaragua has been the most publicized, even though it has not yet materialized. The Sandinist leader said that although Cuba has offered to send 1,000 teachers, they have not yet arrived in Nicaragua and will not do so until November. He added that Cuba has also offered to send 500 doctors, but that until last week only 167 had arrived.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CELL ATTACKS ARMY HEADQUARTERS

PA242343 Paris AFP in Spanish 2307 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Oct (AFP)--A six-man counterrevolutionary unit attacked the main headquarters of the Sandinist army in the southern sector of Managua, which led to intensive fighting, it was reported here today.

Traffic was halted in an extensive area of the southeastern part of the city. Hundreds of people threw themselves on the ground to avoid the bullets. The fighting ended 1 and 1/2 hours later, following an intensive exchange of fire, in which automatic weapons were used.

Command chief Antonio Blanco said that the group of men, dressed in military uniform, fired at the Fontana Command Garrison from a nearby wooded area. Sandinist police patrols were later mobilized to pursue the attackers through the main residential neighborhoods in the sector. No arrests have been reported.

ARMY DENOUNCES CONCEALMENT OF SOMOZIST ELEMENTS

PA250056 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] The army has charged that certain people have been concealing Somozists in their houses so the latter can commit their crimes. They too are responsible for those deaths and the weight of the law will fall on them also.

The companero in charge of the Sandinist Peoples Army's Information and Public Relations Department told us this morning that the shots heard daily are not always harassments, even though on occasions they are. He also stressed that certain people conceal in their homes war criminals who come out at night to kill our militiamen. We warn those persons that whenever a criminal is detected in a house, not only the assassin, but all adults inside the house will be prosecuted.

According to the companero, the permanent human rights commission should take note of this, support the companeros who are premeditatedly killed from behind and denounce the criminals who are still at large, fleeing the law.

CDS WARNED AGAINST FALSE COMMUNIQUES

PA250127 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Attention, revolutionary companeros in the Sandinist Defense Committees (CDS): Do not allow yourself to be caught off guard by false communiques.

Companera Monica Baltodano, who is responsible for the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [word indistinct] Secretariat, has disallowed a circular containing a number of regulations for the CDS that has been circulating through several neighborhoods. Its contents are so crude, so ridiculous and the alleged regulations are so absurd that this circular must be attributed to counterrevolutionary elements interested in creating confusion among CDS members. It is also evident that this circular seeks to distort the CDS's true revolutionary image. According to Baltodano, measures will be adopted so people can distinguish between authentic documents released by their organizations and false ones circulated by counterrevolutionaries.

EL PUEBLO DENOUNCES SANDINIST PERSECUTION

PA250242 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 18 Oct 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) which has unleashed a persecution campaign against the Marxist-Leninist forces in the country, is also behind actions taken against newspaper boys selling EL PUEBLO. They are being arrested, harassed and threatened. This all flagrantly violates the freedom of expression the revolution guaranteed and also of the rights of newspaper boys.

Carlos Molina, who has been selling newspapers for more than 10 years, was arrested yesterday and spent several hours in prison. Molina told us that members of the Sandinist Defense Committee (CDS) from Managua's east side market, went through all his newspaper accusing him of distributing counterrevolutionary propaganda for the newspaper EL PUEBLO. Molina said that two CDS men told him that they had orders to arrest anyone selling EL PUEBLO, which indeed they were doing as well as threatening the boys selling EL PUEBLO.

The Sandinist authorities so far have for all practical purposes shut down the newstand where EL PUEBLO is sold and have also arrested several newspaper boys for selling EL PUEBLO. These actions mar the spirit of freedom of the revolutionary process and are seriously threatening the forces of the revolution.

GOVERNMENT TO CONVERT ZAPATERA ISLAND INTO PRISON

PA232337 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1059 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Oct (LATIN)--In a news conference held here last night, Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge said the Nicaraguan revolutionary government will build prison installations on Zapatera Island, located in Lake Nicaragua. The prison will hold civilian and military prisoners who receive long sentences in the upcoming trials.

Meanwhile, Commander Bayardo Arce, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, added in another news conference that he has learned that the Supreme Court is preparing emergency courts which will try members of the previous government who have been accused of crimes and thefts. "The courts will be appointed this week and will contain one representative from the popular organizations and at least one lawyer," he said. "There will be nine courts in the country," he added.

Commander Borge said the new government is trying to improve conditions in the prisons left by Somozism. "The Somozist jails were built with all the world's wickedness and perversity in mind for us. We will now build jails they never dreamed of," he said. He said penitentiaties are also being made suitable in the industrial free zone near the Managua airport and in "El Coyotepe" Garrison, near Masaya, 26 km from the capital.

"The prisoners on Zapatera Island will be free. They will go to school and will work in factories to cover the cost of supporting them. We will not put people to work to feed the criminals who killed our people," he added. "Our best guards to keep them from escaping will be the freshwater sharks, which are very ferocious. If they are not enough, we will get more sharks," he said. He said there will be primary, secondary and technical schools at the island and maybe even a university. "Whatever the prisoners earn at the factories will be saved so they will have some money when they return to society," he concluded.

PRIVATE BUSINESS CONCERNED ABOUT ROLE WITHIN REVOLUTION

PA241617 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2224 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan private business is acting cautiously in view of the fact that some voices within the revolutionary process are painting a dim picture of its future while others are optimistic. Prompted by the government slogan "Let us pick up production and crush counterrevolution," leading industrialists are trying to get the government to explain the role of national private capital once and for all.

Nicaraguan Chamber of Industries (CADIN) leaders told ACAN-EFE that they feel that "within the socialization process toward which the new Sandinist regime is moving with strong foreign support, private business cannot disappear at least within the next 5 years."

Up until the revolutionary victory, industrial production totaled 3 billion cordobas a year ($300 million) in local consumer and export products providing about 100,000 jobs. The industrial standstill during the final guerrilla offensive that toppled Anastasio Somoza's government became acute when the Sandinist regime was established due to the almost total plundering of public monies and major war damage done in the big cities and certain sections of the capital. CADIN estimates, however, that industry has recovered by almost 50 percent.

Matters concerning businessmen include the apparent collusion of labor officials with "radical" trade union leaders who are promoting disputes at various enterprises. Such positions provoke a constant analysis of the national situation by industrialists who have drawn the reconstruction government junta's and cabinet members' attention to these problems.

Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy explained to them that, as part of the new government's protection of the classes that were always victimized by management exploitation, his office is working toward achieveing understanding and equilibrium between labor and management to insure needed social peace. Government team members Alfonso Robelo, Mrs Violeta Chamorro and Sergio Ramirez confirmed to the CADIN Executive Board their decision to back industrial recovery with the "meager" funds available. The state also supported a trip by Superior Council of Private Enterprise leaders who are in the United States seeking financing. "In view of Nicaragua's economic crisis," financing is needed to reactivate industry, commerce and other sectors. The government opened a window at the Central Bank to promote the development of small businessmen with soft funds from other countries or international agencies.

Bayardo Arce, one of the nine commanders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front which is leading the revolution, said, "Private business has an important role to play in reconstructing Nicaragua," but he admitted that "it is as ruined as the rest of the country." The Sandinist commander spelled out "guidelines for this sector's work" to generate maximum employment and maximum use of local raw materials and to minimize the foreign debt as much as possible.

According to many people, reactionary, capitalist oligarchic forces no longer exist in Nicaragua because the new government eliminated them through nationalization and by confiscating vast properties from Somozism and traditional economic power groups. "Private business is now in the hands of persons involved in or aware of the course of the new Nicaragua; but they need to know their role, rights, guarantees, limits and assurances clearly in order to undertake production and benefit the people, the main beneficiary of the revolution," a recent editorial in LA PRENSA noted.

CADIN executives have also insisted that a poor country such as Nicaragua necessarily has to make gradual progress until it reaches the set goal of socialization and that, aware of the new national situation, businessmen will be needed and be able to coexist with a revolution patterned after local needs and within the eminently nationalist spirit that inspires its leaders.

The Sandinist Workers Central which is becoming the government's labor support, has pointed out that "trade union duties in private firms will be to watch over the enforcement and observance of workers' rights, to exclude remnants of past oppression and exploitation."

GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECREE ON PAYMENT OF TAXES

PA241414 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0113 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--By a decree effective today, the Nicaraguan Government established sentences of 1 to 3 years imprisonment for persons who fail to make correct payment of taxes to the state. The decree adds that the penalty will be revoked in the event that the person charged with tax fraud pays the entire amount owed to the treasury.

The law was announced at the Government Palace by Alfonso Robelo Callejas, a member of the junta of national reconstruction, Finance Minister Joaquin Cuadra and officials of the General Internal Revenue Office. Taxpayers who fail to file their tax declarations within the legal time period will be liable to a fine of 100 percent of the tax, independently of other charges for late payment. In the case of a corporation charged with fraud, the penal responsibility will be applied to the individuals who are guilty of the incorrect payment of taxes.

The fiscal regularization law effective today in Nicaragua was described as an opportunity for Nicaraguans who have failed to pay taxes since 1975 because of lack of confidence in the previous government to do so now, before the 30 November deadline. The legislation covers losses caused by the 43 percent devaluation of the cordoba (on 6 April the cordoba went from a parity of 7 to 1 with dollar to 10 to 1). It was explained that the losses from devaluation of the cordoba will obviously only cover the 1978-1979 period and will be applicable to present businesses.

The new tax legislation, which is designed to collect taxes of up to 150 million cordobas ($15 million), also takes into account the losses caused by the bombing during the final stage of the war of liberation here. The decree considers such losses acceptable and states that they should be listed as "special patriotic losses" for the 1978-1979 period. Therefore, the government is recognizing those enterprises that suffered inventory losses due to their participation in the war.

Alfonso Robelo Callejas, during a news conference, expressed the government's desire to "clean up all tax accounts in arrears." According to the explanations given, Nicaraguans must prepare new tax declarations, including former periods up to 1975, "making a declaration in good faith." They can then pay the state only 50 percent of the amount owed without incurring any fines. This refers to the payment of income taxes.

Regarding the payment of taxes on real estate and movable goods, the government is canceling 50 percent of the amount owed and all fines dating from 1975. However, Robelo Callejas emphasized that to take advantage of the opportunity to "bring their taxes up to date," Nicaraguans will have to pay by the stipulated deadline.

CENTRAL BANK FIGURES INDICATE 1979 POSITIVE TRADE BALANCE

PA250222 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] For the first time in many years Nicaragua will have a positive trade balance. This is primarily a result of few imports this year and the maintenance of our exports despite the political situation we experienced 3 months ago.

According to the Central Bank's official figures, from January to August 1979 Nicaragua had a positive foreign trade balance equivalent to $230,493,000, which exceeds last year's figure by almost $200 million. Although these are preliminary figures, everything seems to indicate that this year our trade balance will be favorable. This is contrary to what occurred during the Somoza era when we always had losses. These were due, of course, to squandering and the system's ostentatiousness.

Our exports from January to August this year amounted to 428,677,000 cordobas.

ORFILA REELECTION SEEN AS DEFEAT FOR DEMOCRACIES

PA250214 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Oct 79 PA

[Text] The Argentine Alejandro Orfila was reelected secretary general of the OAS today with the vigorous support of the United States and certain committed votes.

This reelection was considered a defeat for Latin American democracies and in this regard, Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez said that we now know who our friends are and who practice what they preach. In addition, Jimenez described a statement by U.S. President James Carter that his government will support the so-called representative democratic systems as a siren song. In this regard, Jimenez said that Latin America has a good memory. From the beginning Jimenez had presented his candidacy as an expression of the democratic trend in Latin America as against that of Orfila.

For their part, the U.S. representatives had said openly that they would vote for Orfila. This left many who were undecided to follow their vote.

Press reports indicate that the conclusion reached with regard to Orfila's reelection is that the post of secretary general continues to be occupied by an individual who is very sympathetic to the United States, whose hegemony in the organization has been maintained.

'HYPOCRISY' OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN DENOUNCED

PA250249 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Cuba denounced the hypocrisy of the U.S. campaign in defense of individual human rights which excludes the people's right to bread and to work, while that country supports fascist regimes and wages psychological warfare against progressive governments.

This statement was made by Angel Guerra and Ida Pazo, Cuban delegates to the First International Conference on Asylum and Solidarity in Latin America which is underway in the Venezuelan city of Merida with 130 representatives of several continents in attendance.

The Cuban document thoroughly outlines U.S. aid to fascist regimes in Latin America and in other areas and denounces the inaccurate information promoted by the propaganda media of the United States to the point of creating an artificial crisis in the Caribbean regarding the presence of Soviet troops in Cuba.

AALAPSO SCORES U.S. CARIBBEAN MANEUVERS

FL240153 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] (Nuri Abd al-Izanak), deputy secretary general of the Afro-Asian Latin American People's Solidarity Organization (AALAPSO), has assured Cuba its solidarity and firm support in protecting the homeland. The international leader has sent a message to the AALAPSO in Havana in which it calls the U.S. maneuvers and its reinforcements of troops at the Guantanamo Naval Base provocative North American actions which threaten peace.

NICARAGUAN EDUCATION MINISTER ARRIVES

FL250142 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Dr Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan education minister, has arrived in Havana at the head of a delegation from his country. The members of the PCC Central Committee Jose R. Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Fernando Vecino Alegret, minister of higher education, were at the airport to welcome the traveler. During his visit the Nicaraguan minister will visit various teaching centers.

TRADE DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ETHIOPIA

FL242048 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2009 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Excerpt] A Cuban delegation headed by Vice Minister of Domestic Trade Oscar Marrero today returned to Havana after a visit of several days to Ethiopia.

ECONOMIC TALKS WITH JAPAN CONCLUDE

FL250049 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The closing ceremony of the Fourth Cuba-Japan Economic Conference was held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. The conference has been meeting since 22 October.

In his remarks Hector Rodriguez Llompart, president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, stressed the important role played by the conference in developing Cuban-Japanese relations. He added that Cuba hopes to continue these relations with that country which is our number one trading partner in the non-socialist area. Rodriguez Llompart stated that our country is waiting for the new agreement to be drawn up which will increase participation in the sugar market and increase exports of sea products, nickel, citrus and exports from other economic sectors. He reported that the technical cooperation agreement went into effect today. Lastly he expressed the willingness to continue developing economic relations between Cuba and Japan.

For his part (Yoshihiro Inayama), president of the Cuba-Japan economic conference, expressed his satisfaction for the successful conclusion of the meeting. He added that he and his delegation will make their greatests efforts in support of our trade interests.

Following this was the signing of the protocol of the Fourth Cuba-Japan Economic Conference. It was signed by Mr (Inayama) and Ricardo Cabrizas, who presided over the meeting for Japan and Cuba, respectively.

BARBADOS

CHARGE OF U.S. ARMS AID DENIED

FL241435 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Oct 79 p 1 FL

[Text] A spokesman for the prime minister's office has denied "that the United States Government or any agency of the U.S. Government has requested, or has offered or given the sum of $5 million for arms for Barbados.

"A sum of US$60,000 has been voted by the US Congress for the training of Barbados Coast Guard personnel."

The spokesman was responding to remarks made earlier this week by Grenada's Prime Minister Mr. Maurice Bishop.

The spokesman continued: "I will not accuse Mr. Bishop of taking instructions from the Cubans or Russians because he has made accusations; Dr. Castro would be much too sensible to repeat nonsense of this sort and he has sufficient respect for himself not to ask his would-be satellite to repeat it either."

JAMAICA

JLP ASKS CASTRO TO REPLACE CUBAN ENVOY

FL241647 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The Jamaica Labor Party has written to Cuban President Dr Fidel Castro requesting that he recall the present Cuban ambassador to Jamaica Ulises Estrada. The letter said that in the interest of improving relations between Jamaica and Cuba a new Cuban ambassador should be appointed. It said he should be someone who was capable of promoting better understanding between both states and who symbolizes the mutual respect that should exist.

The JLP letter, signed by party deputy leader Pernell Charles, said the retention of Estrada in his present post would work against the restoration of and continued good relations between the two Caribbean neighors. Senator Charles noted that Jamaica's cordial diplomatic relations with Cuba were initiated on the basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty of each nation and a commitment to the principles of noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Cuban Embassy Returns Letter

FL242201 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2130 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban Embassy this afternoon redirected to the headquarters of the JLP a letter sent by JLP deputy leader Pernell Charles to Cuban President Fidel Castro. The letter requested that Cuban Ambassador Ulises Estrada be withdrawn from Jamaica.

It's understood that the Cuban Embassy advised to the JLP that the correct diplomatic (?passages) for communication to a foreign head of state was through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and not through the embassy.

Contacted this afternoon by JBC [Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation] news, Senator Charles said he had not yet received the returned mail but, when it was received, a decision would be taken on the next course of action. The letter to the embassy was directed to Cuban Ambassador Ulises Estrada who Mr Charles asked to use his diplomatic channels to [word indistinct] Havana.

Earlier this month in the heat of the JLP and GLEANER accusations against the ambassador, that party had issued a statement declaring that it would no longer recognize the Cuban ambassador.

This afternoon Mr Estrada left the island on a routine visit to Cuba. He will return in a few days.

PNP SAYS JLP UNDERMINING INSTITUTIONS

FL241702 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The Executive of the People's National Party [PNP] has called on the Jamaica Labor Party leadership to cease what it termed "degrading the Jamaican society." In a release today, the PNP Executive pointed to what it called the JLP's daily output of baseless statements or charges and inmuendoes at home and abroad. The release said this was aimed at undermining the nation's institutions and the self-confidence of Jamaicans.

The PNP Executive further spoke out against the report carried in Monday's GLEANER headlined: "JLP Can Deal With the JLP, says Golding," which [words indistinct] integrity of party president and Prime Minister Michael Manley. The release said that statement by Mr Golding [JLP secretary] was being examined by the PNP's lawyers.

SOUTH KOREAN TEXTILE DELEGATION MEETS WITH WILLIAMS

FL242223 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2130 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The South Korean ambassador to Jamaica, Mr Choe Un-sang, today proposed modifications of certain import-export regulations governing lines of credit. Mr Choe made his proposal at a meeting between the visiting five-man South Korean trade delegation and the Minister of Industry Mr Danny Williams. He said the 55 percent guaranteed deposit which the local manufacturer had to make through his commercial bank was one of the fundamental problems affecting implementation of the line of credit between Jamaica and South Korea. However Mr Williams said the 55 percent deposit was common to all lines of credit, and he said the arrangement could not be modified.

The team comprising members of the Korea Cotton Textile Exporters Association is seeking to promote the sale of textiles under the 5 million dollar line of credit which South Korea made available to Jamaica earlier this year. They leave the island tommorrow.

GUYANA

PNC FIRE-BOMBING TRIAL BY MAGISTRATE OPENS 25 OCT

FL2422?2 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2130 GMT 24 Oct 79 FL

[Text] A team of Caribbean lawyers today strongly objected to a prosecution application for trial by a magistrate of three Guyanese academics and political activists charged jointly with arson. Noted historian Dr (Walter Rodney) as well as Dr (Rupert Rubnerine) and Dr (Omawale), all of the Working People's Alliance Party, are accused of fire-bombing the wooden structure which housed the headquarters of the ruling People's National Congress [PNC].

In applications for trial by a magistrate, instead of the case going to a judge and jury, was made at the start of the hearing this afternoon by the Guyanese director of public prosecution. He said he was not required to give grounds for such an application, but the defense lawyers which include Jamaican (Richard Small), resisted the move, arguing among everything that the political atmosphere surrounding the case was such that the men should be tried by their peers. The case begins tomorrow.

MEXICO

TRADE, INDUSTRY COOPERATION WITH JAPAN STRESSED

'Abuse' by Transnationals

PA191433 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0315 GMT 19 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Hector Alvarez de la Cadena, chairman of the National Committee for Foreign Investments and Transfer of Technology, has stated that Mexico will not tolerate abuse by the transnationals and will closely watch the profits they send to their countries, especially the United States.

Regarding the transfer of technology, he said that the government will be selective. Meanwhile, the patrimony and industrial development secretary said that we may speak of discrimination because we must choose the best way and select only technology which meets the needs of the country's socioeconomic development.

The statements were made during the second working day of the 17th meeting of the Japan-Mexico trade committee which was attended by President Lopez Portillo who heard the proposals regarding joint investments.

Cooperation Conference Ends

OW190945 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 19 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Mexico City, Oct 19, KYODO--Japanese and Mexican businessmen, winding up a two-day conference here Thursday, called for stepped-up business cooperation between the two countries. Japanese delegation leader Renzo Taguchi told the 11th joint meeting of the Japan-Mexico business cooperation committee that he would call on smaller Japanese firms to do business in the Latin American country. Taguchi is chairman of Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. Among the participants at the annual meeting was Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo who put stress on more bilateral cooperation not only in trade but also in industrial production.

URUGUAY

QUEIROLO, ARGENTINA'S VIOLA SPEAK AT CEREMONY

PY242045 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] Argentine Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Roberto Viola this morning handed over a battery of six 75-mm Bofors guns to the Uruguayan Army and paid homage to the River Plata heroes, Artigas and San Martin. During the ceremony Viola stated:

[Begin Viola recording] May the thunder of each shot and the blast of each volley proclaim, in a loud voice and to all the world, the indestructible friendship of the nations of San Martin and Artigas. These arms undoubtedly serve the cause of our nations. They are arms which will defend our sovereignty and the tradition which was handed down to us by our ancestors; they are arms to secure the survival of our Western way of life; they are arms to preserve peace. I pray to God that it will be so. [end recording]

In this morning's ceremony, Lt Gen Luis Queirolo, who will see Lt Gen Viola off from Carrasco airport at 1730 this afternoon, stated:

[Begin Queirolo recording] Our enemies are not to be found within the authentic American nations; they are to be found within the foreign forces who, at the service of imperialism, [words indistinct]. But they do try to stir up bitterness and discored and even hatred among the American nations in order to secure the destruction of unity, of political equilibrium, in order to weaken our countries and thus create fertile fields for the imposition of their ideology and their systems. Ceremonies like this one, Mr Commander, in which we reaffirm our course and ratify our convictions about the path taken, are propitious even though we limit them to the military sphere, to mediate on [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

VENEZUELA

MINISTER CALLS EMERGENCY OPEC MEETING 'INAPPROPRIATE'

PA231241 Paris AFP in English 0707 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, Oct 23 (AFP)--Venezuela considers it "inappropriate" to hold an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) before the scheduled conference in December, Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said here Monday. But he added that his country would go along with any decision by a majority of OPEC members. Over the weekend Iran asked for an urgent OPEC meeting to revise world crude oil price. Mr Calderon suggested that the matter could wait for the December talks in Caracas. He said all members should for the time being respect the price levels set at OPEC's last meeting in Geneva. A number of exporters have unilaterally raised their prices recently.

EXILED SALVADORAN LEADER DUARTE LEAVES FOR HOME

PA250401 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 24 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Oct (AFP)--Salvadoran Christian Democratic leader Jose Napoleon Duarte, who had been living as a political exile in Venezuela, left today for El Salvador. Duarte traveled with a small party aboard a Venezuelan Government plane, it was learned at Maiquetia International Airport located near this capital. Duarte is returning to his country 10 days after the military coup, supported by vast Salvadoran center and leftwing sectors, overthrew President Carlos Humberto Romero.